

# MSA Computer Support Newsletter

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## Computer Support Newsletter Audience

A note to our many readers.....This newsletter is published mainly to inform MSA employees of Information Technology (IT) news and happenings. Much of the newsletter will relate to the local user base. If you are NOT at Stoneville, some of the contained items may not be relevant to you

Email all questions and comments to:  
[MSA-Helpdesk@ars.usda.gov](mailto:MSA-Helpdesk@ars.usda.gov)

## Paranoia: The Best Defense Against Email Attacks

Email has become one of the most common ways for hackers and crooks to infect or try to take control of PCs. Their newest trick is adding links to emails that either take you to an infected website or a Pharmed website (see article below).

It's said that curiosity killed the cat, and sometimes it tricks us into launching viruses, installing browser-disabling add-ons, or even forking over credit card numbers and passwords. Maybe we're inspired by the false belief that firewalls, antivirus software, and anti-spyware programs protect us from all viruses, worms, and intrusive programs. But even the best of these shields can't always protect

you from the biggest security threat of all: yourself.

Don't be someone who clicks first and asks questions later. Take a few minutes and review past newsletters for more information on:

[Password Security](#)

[Phishing / Spyware / Adware](#)

[Windows Updates / AntiVirus Updates](#)

[Protecting Your System from Virus Invasions](#)

## Pharming: Is your trusted Web site a clever fake?

### What is Pharming?

"Pharming" is when criminal hackers redirect Internet traffic from one Web site to a different, identical-looking site in order to trick you into entering your user name and password into the database on their fake site. Banking or similar financial sites are often the target of these attacks, in which criminals try to acquire your personal information in order to access your bank account, steal your identity, or commit other kinds of fraud in your name.

**Can't I tell that a Web site is false simply by moving the pointer over the links and seeing if the code goes to an apparently random address off the site?**

Not necessarily. The false Web sites used in pharming scams usually "spoof" their links so that they look exactly like the ones you expect to see, even in the code that appears when you mouse over them. Also, Web sites may change the code in their own links from time to time for various internal reasons, such as when they are upgrading their software, server platform, and customer traffic analysis methods.

If you notice something suspicious about a trusted Web site, report it—by telephone if possible—to the business or site owner. It may be a normal glitch or a new update, or it may be a mistake a criminal has made when trying to duplicate a Web site.

## Groupwise Q&As

### Creating a Vacation Rule

You can automate many GroupWise actions by using Rules to define a set of conditions and actions to be performed when an item meets those conditions. Here's one example:

It's vacation time and you want to alert people who send you e-mail that you are out of the office. Here's one neat way (there are lots of ways, some good, some bad, some indifferent; this is one of the good ways) to set up an effective GroupWise vacation rule.

1. Click **Tools > Rules > New**. Type a name for the rule, something like "Vacation Rule."
2. Under **When Event Is**, make sure that **New Item** is selected, and **Received** is checked.
3. Under **Item Types**, select the item types you care about; usually only **Mail**.
4. Click **Define Conditions**. Here's the tricky part.
  - ◆ In the first pop-up menu, click **All Fields**, then find and click **Delivered**.
  - ◆ In the next pop-up menu (the symbols), select **On or After Date**, then in the next box, replace the date that appears (probably today's date, which is just GroupWise trying to be helpful) with the date you're leaving for Maui.
  - ◆ In the last pop-up menu, select **And** to start another row, because we're not done yet.
  - ◆ This row will be a lot like the first one, but will define the **end** of your vacation. In the first pop-up menu, click **Delivered**.
  - ◆ In the next pop-up menu (the symbols), click **On or Before Date**, then in the next box, replace the date with the day you're returning from Maui.

◆ In the last pop-up menu of the second row, click **And** to start yet another row.

◆ In the new row (the third row), click **To** in the first pop-up menu, leave **Contains** in the second, then type your username in the next box - if your email address is `jdoe@msa-stoneville.ars.usda.gov`, then `jdoe` is your username. This ensures that only email sent directly to you, unlike email sent to MSA-All, list servers and what not, will be affected by the rule.

◆ Leave **End** in the last pop-up menu of this last row, then click **OK**.

5. Go down to **Then Actions Are**, and click **Add Action**. Select **Reply**. Make sure **Reply to Sender** is selected, then click **OK**. Type your "I'm in Maui and you're not" message, then click **OK**.
6. Click **Save**, then **Close**. That's it, you're done.

Here's the cool part. This rule works only during the dates specified in the rule itself. Activate it, then forget about it until you go on vacation again. When you're ready, type new dates in the conditions rows, and in the auto-reply, instead of Maui, type Cancun.



Click [here](#) for instructions with screen shots

Check the [Groupwise manual](#) for instructions on creating your own rule.

Did you know that Groupwise 6.0 and later versions has a "smart reply" feature that keeps a list of the people that it has already replied to, so that they do not get a second reply. This helps to prevent any looping rule problems.

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## ARS NEWS

### ARS Websites Get New Look

Have you noticed that the ARS websites look different? On December 31, 2005, ARS changed the look of their website in order to conform to USDA website requirements.

Some of the more noticeable changes are:

- The location/hierarchy tab system at the top of the page has been re-

placed by a *You are here:* link below the content bar

- 8 of the 10 categories from the content bar have moved to left navigational bar

Take a minute or two to explore the new look and feel of the website.

[ARS](#)

[MSA](#)

*Click [here](#) for a list of links to all MSA websites*

### InForms Replacement Software

It's been quite awhile since we've updated you on the status of the forms replacement system. That's because we've been hard at work helping to test the new system.

Testing of the new forms system officially began in June 2005. Since then, 9 of the 10 phases of the forms testing have

been completed. The final phase is projected to be completed by March 2006.

After the system has been completely tested, ARS will begin to add users by AREA . The system is scheduled to be fully functional by early Summer 2006.

More news to come.

*Get ARS forms from the [AFM website](#)*

### Windows Humor



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